

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/084,802

Examiner

G. Nagesh Rao

Applicant(s)

GIAMMATTEI, MARK HOWARD

Art Unit

1722

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/28/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 29-31,33,34 and 36-43.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1) An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Shawn McClintic on 1/09/2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, before line 1, please insert the following paragraph:

--This application is a division of Application No. 09/705,266, filed
November 03, 2000 and now US Patent No. 6,511,217.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 29 --An extruder transition section, comprising an enclosed discharge chamber defined by a first sectioning wall, a second sectioning wall and a contoured lower wall that transitions longitudinally toward a discharge port and a shaft that extends through said first sectioning wall, traverses said chamber and extends through said second sectioning wall, where both first and second sectioning walls are engaged with disconnectable couplings that permit said first compounding apparatus to be disconnected from said second compounding apparatus.--

Claim 32 is cancelled.

Claim 33 --An extruder transition section, said extruder transition section connecting an upstream compounding apparatus and a downstream compounding apparatus, said extruder transition section comprising an enclosed discharge chamber defined by a first sectioning wall, a second sectioning wall and a contoured lower wall that transitions toward a discharge port and a shaft that extends through said first sectioning wall, traverses said chamber and extends through said second sectioning wall, where said first and second sectioning walls

are engaged with disconnectable couplings that permit said upstream compounding apparatus to be disconnected from said downstream compounding apparatus.--

Claim 35 is cancelled.

Terminal Disclaimer

2) The terminal disclaimer filed on 6/16/05 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of US Patent No. 6,511,217 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Reasons for Allowance

3) The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Upon Review although the prior art cited teaches various types of compounding extruder apparatuses such as Kastings (US Patent No. 3,632,256) which depicts in Figure 1 an extrusion compounding apparatus, whereby there is a discharge chamber defined by a first sectioning wall, a second sectioning wall and a contoured lower wall that transitions toward a discharge port (22a) where an extruder shaft (12) extends through said first sectioning wall, traverses said chamber and extends

through said sectioning wall whereby the shaft is commonly run through a discharge section that connects a first compounding apparatus upstream (Where 20a is located) to a second compound apparatus downstream (Where 20b is located) where it is capable of having length to ratio diameters of 30 or less. Finally the extruder having a single screw configuration which are capable of having either reciprocating or non-reciprocating configurations. Furthermore Kasting 256 teaches that the single screw configuration arrangement can be easily modified with a twin screw configuration arrangement between the two compounding apparatuses (See Col 1 Lines 1-75, Col 2 Lines 1-75, Col 3 Lines 1-65 and Col 4 Lines 1-65).

However Kastings 256 fails to teach incorporating disconnectable couplings that would permit the two extruder apparatuses disconnected from the extruder transition section taught by Kasting 256.

Lowe (US Patent No. 5,259,671) teaches in a related art of extruders the use of disconnectable couplings (Quick-Disconnect Coupling Columns 7-10).

The only problem is that the incorporation of the quick-disconnect couplings would destroy the apparatus shown forth by Kastings 256 which is a solid single apparatus and not composed of two compounding apparatuses jointed together by a sectioning piece with an associated discharge chamber section. The motivation to

combine the two pieces of art would destroy the apparatus and device taught by Kastings 256.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to G. Nagesh Rao whose telephone number is (571) 272-2946. The examiner can normally be reached on 9AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

GNR



ROBERT DAVIS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1300-1700

1/19/00